EXHIBIT A

Ashby & Geddes Invoice for the Period from February 1, 2025 through and including February 28, 2025

ASHBY & GEDDES

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

TELEPHONE 302-654-1888

500 DELAWARE AVENUE P. O. BOX 1150

FED ID#23-2193414

INVOICE

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19899

April 21, 2025

Billed through 02/28/25

Account: WRTELL -00001 - MDD

86582

Bradley Kahn, Esq. Akin Gump One Bryant Park New York, NY 10036-6745

Michael J. Wartell in his capacity as Independent Director Appointed in HoldCo Debtors' Cases (In re: Franchise Group, Inc., et al.)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED

02/02/25 MDD	07	Review Ad Hoc Group Freedom Lenders objection to Willkie Farr employment (.7); emails with Akin team (T. Helfrick; A. Antypas) (possible	1.10	\$836.00
		filing in connection with February 6 hearing) (.4);		

- Review Debtors' omnibus reply and 02/03/25 MDD 17 Feldman declaration filed in support of disclosure statement and solicitation procedures, overview revised proposed order in connection therewith (.8); begin review and analysis of second amended proposed plan and disclosure statement (blacklines) (.8); review Ad Hoc First Lien Group statement in support of disclosure statement (.1);
- Akin email status updates (A. 02/03/25 MDD 07 Antypas, R. Tizravesh) (.2); review Judge Silverstein's new chambers procedures (.1); review and tracking of discovery-related notices filed to date in these cases (.5); status update and strategy call with Akin (A. Antypas) regarding potential filing in connection with February 6 hearing (.3), discuss same with R. Palacio (.2); review and analysis of

1.70 \$1,292.00

2.70 \$2,052.00

		Debtors' and Willkie Farr joint reply papers, Feldman supplemental declaration, and Orlofsky supplemental declaration in support of Willkie Farr employment application (1.4);		
02/04/25 KMJ	07	Download Agenda for February 6th hearing and email to M. DeBaecke (.1);	0.10	\$34.50
02/04/25 KMJ	11	Download Objection to Willie Farr retention app (.1); research form of motion for leave to file late reply (.2), emails with Michael D. DeBaecke regarding same (.1);	0.40	\$138.00
02/04/25 KMS	07	Emails with M. DeBaecke re. 2/6 hearing (0.1); assist with preparation of same (0.3);	0.40	\$124.00
02/04/25 MDD	17	Status update and strategy call with Akin team (discovery issues) (R. Tizravesh, P. Glackin) (.4), notes to file regarding same (.1), discuss same and options with R. Palacio (.2); follow up email and detailed thoughts regarding same, potential next steps (.7);	1.40	\$1,064.00
02/04/25 MDD	07	Emails with Akin (B. Kahn) (potential filing) (.2); status update and strategy call with Akin (B. Kahn, A. Luft) (potential filing) (.4); draft potential motion for leave to file late Statement along with proposed order related thereto (1.5); email updates and requests/instructions, call with K. Jones regarding same (.4); emails with Akin team (R. Tizravesh) (schedule update and strategy call today) (.1); further emails with Akin team (potential filing), discuss same with A. Antypas (.4 total); T. Helfrick email request (February 6 hearing) (.1); overview OUST supplemental objection, with attachments (Willkie Farr employment application) (.4); review February 6 hearing agenda (.1); review multiple parties' witness and exhibit lists filed in connection with February 6 hearing (Debtors' and Willkie Farr joint lists; Ad Hoc Group of Freedom	4.30	\$3,268.00

		Lenders lists; Prophecy Trust lists; OUST exhibit list; OCUC lists (.6 total)); overview contract and cure-related objection (filed by multiple landlords) (.1);		
02/05/25 MDD	17	Review Ad Hoc Group Freedom Lenders combined motion to adjourn disclosure statement hearing and supplemental objection to disclosure statement (.3);	0.30	\$228.00
02/05/25 MDD	07	Email updates with K. Jones (February 6 hearing) (.1); review and process potential hearing exhibits (board resolutions) (.3); follow up emails regarding February 6 hearing (.1); review discovery-related notices filed by UCC (subpoenas to Vintage Capital and Jeffries) (.1);	0.60	\$456.00
02/05/25 MDD	02	Review notice of adjournment (auction) (.1);	0.10	\$76.00
02/06/25 KMJ	07	Register M. DeBaecke and co-counsel for February 10th hearing (.2);	0.20	\$69.00
02/06/25 MDD	17	Review and respond to Akin team emails, provide email updates (T. Helfrick, A. Luft) (.2); emails with A. Luft (.1); collect and begin review and analysis of late night filings in connection with 2/6 hearing (1.0); review further amended hearing agenda (.1); prepare for and attend 2/6 hearing (10.0);		\$8,664.00
02/07/25 MDD	07	Review first lien group's amended Rule 2019 statement (.1); review further stipulation to extend challenge period (.1);	0.20	\$152.00
02/07/25 MDD	02	Overview new additional sale-related objections (Buddy Mac Holdings and Abra Health) (.4 total);	0.40	\$304.00
02/09/25 MDD	07	Review discovery-related notice (B. Kahn objections and responses to Freedom Lenders' written discovery requests) (.1);	0.10	\$76.00
02/10/25 MDD	07	Review discovery-related notice (B. Riley responses and objections to Freedom Lenders' document requests) (.1);	0.10	\$76.00

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02/10/25 MDD	02	Review notice of further adjournment of auction (.1); review letter to Court from counsel for Buddy Mac (discovery disputes relating to proposed sale) (.2);	0.30	\$228.00	
02/11/25 KMJ	07	Download Agenda for 2/13 hearing (.2); register M. DeBaecke (.1);	0.30	\$103.50	
02/11/25 MDD	11	Review and update draft Ashby first monthly fee statement (.3);	0.30	\$228.00	
02/11/25 MDD	07	Review February 13 hearing agenda with attachments (.2);	0.20	\$152.00	
02/12/25 KMJ	07	Download amended agenda for 2/13 hearing (.1); download notice of hearing regarding bench ruling and register M. DeBaecke for hearing (.1);	0.20	\$69.00	
02/12/25 MDD	11	Email updates with Akin team (J. Newdeck, A. Antypas) (first monthly fee statements) (.2);	0.20	\$152.00	
02/12/25 MDD	07	Review further amended February 13 hearing agenda (.1); review notice of bench ruling (2/12) (Willkie Farr employment application) (.1), email notice to Akin team regarding same (.1); review YCST supplemental declaration (employment) (.1); attend bench ruling on Willkie Farr employment application (.9);	1.30	\$988.00	
02/12/25 MDD	17	Begin review and analysis of further amended proposed plan and disclosure statement (.8);	0.80	\$608.00	
02/12/25 MDD	02	Review notice of cancellation of auction (.1);	0.10	\$76.00	
02/13/25 KMJ	07	Download Agenda adjourning 2/13 hearing (.1); update calendar (.1);	0.20	\$69.00	
02/13/25 MDD	17	Further review of certain relevant Plan provisions, email to Akin (A. Luft) regarding same (.3);	0.30	\$228.00	
02/13/25 MDD	07	Review further amended February 13 hearing agenda (hearing adjourned) (.1); review Debtors' letter response to Court regarding Buddy Mac discovery disputes (.1); review Court's order on Willkie Farr employment application (.1);	0.30	\$228.00	

Bill number	WRTELL 86582	PAGE 5
02/14/25 KMJ	Download Agenda for 2/19 hearing 0.40 (.1); review district court appeal dockets and download briefs requested by Michael D. DeBaecke (.3);	\$138.00
02/14/25 MDD	Review District Court docket for consolidated appeals filed by Freedom Lender Group (.1); overview appellants' opening brief and Debtors' appellee brief regarding issues and arguments raised therein (.9);	\$760.00
02/14/25 MDD	17 Status update call with A. Luft 0.20 (proposed Plan) (.2);	\$152.00
02/14/25 MDD	Review 2L Agent and Freedom Lender Ad Hoc Group's motion papers in support of asserted superpriority administrative expense claim for diminution in value (.5); review February 19 hearing agenda (.1);	\$456.00
02/15/25 MDD	07 Review Debtors' filed notice of withdrawal of counsel (.1);	\$76.00
02/17/25 MDD	17 Review Freedom Lenders' motion 0.30 papers and related motion to shorten (seeking further adjournment of disclosure statement hearing) (.3);	\$228.00
02/17/25 MDD	Begin prep work for Ashby combined 0.40 initial monthly fee statement (December/January) (.4);	\$304.00
02/18/25 GAT	Office conference with Michael D. 1.50 DeBaecke regarding independent director investigation (.6); review of pleadings filed by 2Ls and blackline disclosure statement (.9);	\$1,192.50
02/18/25 KMJ	Revise Ashby's first monthly fee 0.20 statement (.2);	\$69.00
02/18/25 KMJ	Download Amended Plan/Disclosure and notices (.3); download amended agenda for 2/19 hearing (.1); review docket and claims register and download Master POC filed by HoldCo Lenders and Irradiant Solutions (.4);	\$276.00
02/18/25 MDD	08 Review master proof claim filed by 0.50 Alter Domus on behalf of Freedom Lender Group (.3); review proof of	\$380.00

Bill number WRTELL 86582 6 PAGE claim filed by Irradiant relating to 2L facility (.2); 02/18/25 MDD Review and comments to updated draft 0.40 \$304.00 11 of Ashby combined monthly fee statement (December and January) (.4);02/18/25 MDD 17 Begin review and analysis of further 3.70 \$2,812.00 amended proposed disclosure statement including referenced attachments (1.5); review and analysis of further amended Plan (.8), multiple discussions with G. Taylor in connection therewith (status of case and 2/19 hearing) (.6 total); overview revised proposed solicitation procedures and disclosure statement approval order (.3); T. Helfrick email requests with attachments (.2), coordinate copies and hearing binders of same with Parcels overnight services (.3);Email updates with K. Jones (open 0.40 \$304.00 02/18/25 MDD 07 issues; February 19 hearing) (.1); email update to G. Taylor (February 19 hearing) (.2); review further amended February 19 hearing agenda (.1);02/18/25 MDD 23 Status update calls with Akin team 2.40 \$1,824.00 (A. Luft, M. Stamer) (.4), perform additional research and review of prior case filings regarding Wartell expanded investigation (1.0); office discussions regarding Wartell expanded investigation, potential tasks related thereto (T. Mickler (.3), L. Trainer (.3), K. Jones (.2), G. Taylor (.2); further intraoffice emails and discussions regarding same (K. Jones; G. Taylor) (.4);02/19/25 GAT 23 Meeting with co-counsel and M. 3.40 \$2,703.00 DeBaecke regarding expanded investigation (1.0); attendance at DS hearing (partial) (2.0); review of blackline of revised DS (.4); Download Notice of Filing Blackline 0.20 \$69.00 02/19/25 KMJ 07 of Revised Disclosure Statement (.1); download Appellant's Reply Brief filed in district court (.1);

02/19/25 MDD	17	Internal emails and instructions to K. Jones regarding potential hearing needs (.2); review updated Board written consent (expanded Wartell investigation powers) (.2); prepare for and meet with G. Taylor, A. Luft, M. Stamer prior to disclosure statement hearing (1.0); attend disclosure statement hearing (before break) (3.0), after break (partial) (.2), discussions with G. Taylor regarding same (.4); review blacklined pages of further amended proposed disclosure statement [#1099] (.2);	5.20	\$3,952.00
02/20/25 GAT	23	Review of Debtors' demonstrative exhibit used for 2/19 hearing (.3);	0.30	\$238.50
02/20/25 MDD	07	Overview new filings (.1);	0.10	\$76.00
02/20/25 MDD	23	P. Glackin email update with attachments (subpoena to third party) (.2); review same, review and comments to draft subpoena and draft notice of service (.4); emails with P. Glackin regarding same (.2); review Freedom Lenders' reply brief in support of pending appeals (.5); review Debtors' February 19 powerpoint presentation at 2/19 hearing (.3);	1.60	\$1,216.00
02/21/25 GAT	23	Emails with M. DeBaecke regarding potential claims investigation (.4); office conference with M. DeBaecke regarding same (.7); review of notice of confirmation hearing (.2);	1.30	\$1,033.50
02/21/25 KMJ	11	Finalize draft of Ashby's first monthly fee statement (.3);	0.30	\$103.50
02/21/25 KMJ	07	Download documents from Kroll (.5); organize preparation of binders requested by Michael D. DeBaecke, including index and cover sheet (.5); download amended plan/disclosure statement, notice and order approving disclosure statement (.4);	1.40	\$483.00
02/21/25 MDD	23	Docket research regarding first lien lenders' prior filings, relevant documents (.7); emails and instructions to K. Wiliford and K.	1.90	\$1,444.00

		Jones regarding preparation of binders regarding same (.3); begin review of third stipulation between creditors committee and first lien lender groups (challenge period) (.2); status update and strategy discussion with G. Taylor regarding investigation, next steps (.7);		
02/21/25 MDD	11	Review and edits, draft updated Ashby combined first monthly fee statement (.5); email to Akin team (J. Newdeck, A. Antypas) regarding same (.1);	0.60	\$456.00
02/21/25 MDD	17	Review COC and blackline of revised proposed solicitation procedures and disclosure statement order (.3); review and analysis of further amended plan and disclosure statement (1.2); email updates with G. Taylor regarding same (.2); email updates with A. Luft (.2); overview entered solicitation procedures and disclosure statement order (.2);	2.10	\$1,596.00
02/22/25 GAT	23	Review and analysis of background pleadings and documents regarding investigation of 1st lien lenders (5.1);	5.10	\$4,054.50
02/22/25 MDD	02	Email and attachments received from potential bidder for certain assets (.2);	0.20	\$152.00
02/23/25 MDD	23	Further review and analysis of February 14 board written consent and third stipulation to extend challenge period (.7 total);	0.70	\$532.00
02/24/25 GAT	23	Office conference with M. DeBaecke regarding investigation (1.5); review and analysis of background pleadings and documents regarding same (4.2);	5.70	\$4,531.50
02/24/25 KMJ	23	Coordinate preparation of second binder of relevant pleadings (.4); download notice of confirmation hearing and add deadlines to calendar (.2); download appeal briefs and coordinate preparation of binder (.4); download multiple claims, prepare index and coordinate preparation of binder (1.0);	2.00	\$690.00

02/24/25 MDD	23	Meet with G. Taylor, discuss open issues and next steps (investigation) (1.5); calls with Akin (P. Glackin) regarding investigation (.2); instructions and requests to K. Jones, K. Wiliford (.2); review creditors' committee answering brief on appeal, ad hoc group of first lien lenders' joinder in Debtors' answering brief on appeal (.6 total); review executed Freedom Debtor Boards' unanimous written consents (2/14/25) (.3); build Investigation electronic files (.3); begin work on Investigation file memo (1.8); review and analysis of the Committee Settlement Term Sheet, build file memo regarding same (.8); review and comments to G. Taylor initial draft file memo (.3);	6.00	\$4,560.00
02/24/25 MDD	17	Review and process filed notice of confirmation hearing, calendar relevant dates and deadlines (.1);	0.10	\$76.00
02/25/25 GAT	23	Office conferences with MDD regarding claim investigation (1.5 total); review of filings and background materials regarding same (4.2); review MDD memo regarding same (.4);	6.10	\$4,849.50
02/25/25 KMJ	23	Finalize and file Notice of Service of Subpoena upon third party (.3); coordinate preparation of claims binder (.3);	0.60	\$207.00
02/25/25 MDD	23	Continue work to build file memo (investigation), identify open issues and next steps (1.6); email and attachments from Akin team (P. Glackin, R. Tizravesh) (subpoena for third party) (.2), reply to same (.1); status update and strategy meeting with G. Taylor (investigation) (.7); P. Glackin reply email, internal processing of same (notice of service) (.1); initial review of first lien credit agreement and related amendments documentation (1.2); emails with Akin (P. Glackin) (investigation) (.2); P. Glackin email replies (.1); review prior document requests	6.80	\$5,168.00

issued in connection with Wartell investigation (.3); review and analysis of final financing order and related documents, build file memo regarding same (1.5 of 2.5 billed), discuss investigation with G. Taylor (.8); Correspondence to counsel to 5.80 \$4,611.00 Committee, 1Ls, 1L Agent and 2Ls requesting calls to discuss investigation (.8); work on initial document requests to certain parties (1.0); review of chapter 11 materials regarding investigation of potential claims (3.7); telephone conference with with Akin (P. Glackin) regarding available documents (.3); Download hearing transcripts and 0.40 \$138.00 circulate to M. DeBaecke and G. Taylor (.4); Review Akin comments to initial 0.90 \$684.00 draft Ashby monthly fee statement (.1), emails with Akin (T. Helfrick) regarding updated draft Ashby initial combined monthly fee statement (.2); instructions to K. Jones regarding same (.1); J. Newdeck email with attachments regarding necessary additional

initial combined monthly fee statement (.2); instructions to K. Jones regarding same (.1); J. Newdeck email with attachments regarding necessary additional connections searches (new parties in interest recently added to list) (.2), emails with K. Wiliford regarding same (.3);

02/26/25 MDD 23 Begin preparation of initial form of

02/26/25 GAT

02/26/25 KMJ

02/26/25 MDD

23

07

11

DD 23 Begin preparation of initial form of document requests (first lien investigation) (2.7), meet with G.
Taylor regarding same (.5); email to P. Glackin (documents) (.1); call with P. Glackin, G. Taylor (documents) (.3); continue review and analysis of final financing order and related documents, continue to build file memo (1.8); review and edits to form of introductory email to respective counsel for various parties (.2); P. Glackin email update (documents) (.1);

02/27/25 DAK 23 Review and analysis of case

2.80 \$1,176.00

		materials and memoranda (2.8);		
02/27/25 GAT	23	Review of chapter 11 filings and materials regarding investigation of potential claims (3.4); office conference with MDD regarding same (1.0); telephone conference with L. Trainer and MDD regarding same (.7); preparation for call with Committee counsel and telephone conference with same (1.0 total); telephone conference with Akin team regarding scope of investigation to be handled by Ashby team (.5); review of correspondence from counsel to 1Ls regarding call to discuss investigation (.1); multiple emails with Ashby team regarding investigation (.6);	7.30	\$5,803.50
02/27/25 KMJ	11	<pre>Incorporate Akin comments into Ashby's first monthly fee statement (.2);</pre>	0.20	\$69.00
02/27/25 MDD	07	Field creditor calls (2 separate calls) (.1); review notice and calendar new April 3 hearing date (.1); review Debtors' notice of change of address (headquarters; service address) (.1);	0.30	\$228.00
02/27/25 MDD	23	Emails regarding call with OCUC counsel (.1); email updates with A. Luft, P. Glackin (.3); work to build file memos, preparations for upcoming calls with counsel representing creditor groups (1.8); discuss next steps and tasks with D. Kosloske (.2); strategy and update meeting with G. Taylor (1.0); internal emails (G. Taylor, L. Trainer) (.2); review 2/25 letter submissions by Freedom Lenders and Debtors (.3); begin review of DS hearing transcript (.6); status update and strategy meeting (G. Taylor, L. Trainer) (.7), follow up internal emails regarding same (.2); status update and strategy call with Akin team (A. Luft, P. Glackin, R. Tizravesh), G. Taylor, L. Trainer (.5); investigation call with Committee counsel (Pachulski team), G. Taylor, L. Trainer (.5), notes to file regarding same (2); follow up	7.00	\$5,320.00

file regarding same (.2); follow up

		<pre>meeting with G. Taylor, discuss next steps (.4);</pre>		
02/27/25 PT	23	Telephone conference with Greg Taylor and Mike DeBaecke (.7); video conference with Akin Gump (.5); video conference with committee counsel (.5); email exchange with Mike DeBaecke (.1);	1.80	\$1,728.00
02/28/25 GAT	23	Emails with M. DeBaecke and P. Trainer regarding investigation (.7);	0.70	\$556.50
02/28/25 KMJ	11	Review and incorporate additional changes to draft Ashby monthly fee statement (.3);	0.30	\$103.50
02/28/25 KMS	23	Multiple emails with MDD, G. Taylor and M. Morse re FRG - Relativity Access; download documents re same and upload to S drive (1.5);	1.50	\$465.00
02/28/25 MDD	11	T. Helfrick email and attached further comments (Ashby combined first monthly fee statement) (.2), reply to same (.1); further work on updated Ashby first monthly fee statement (.3), email to Akin team regarding same (.1);	0.70	\$532.00
02/28/25 MDD	07	Review new Debtor filing (further motion to reject leases and contracts) (.1); review discovery-related notice (Debtors' written discovery requests to Freedom Lender group) (.1);	0.20	\$152.00
02/28/25 MDD	23	Emails to and from Akin team (M. Morse; T. Helfrick) (documents) (.2); many internal emails to and from Ashby team (Taylor/Trainer/Kosloske/Wiliford) (investigation; documents; document requests; open issues; next steps) (1.5); review and analysis of creditors committee prior filed challenge period stipulations (3), motion for standing and draft complaint attached thereto (.8 all together); continue build of internal investigation files (key documents and case filings) (.3); review documents (Take Private Transaction) (.3); email from Paul Hastings team (.1);	3.20	\$2,432.00

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02/28/25 E	exchanges with review of doc disclosure sta	n Mike DeBaeck uments (.5); r atement (.4); e (.2); review	e (.3); review of review of	2.30 \$2,208.0
	Total fees			\$100,044.00
DISBURSEM	ENTS			
02/26/25	Costs Advanced (Chelse A. Lyft, P. Glackin, M			88.80
02/28/25	Photocopies			666.10
02/28/25	Pacer Service - Court Charges	On-Line Docket	System	122.50
02/28/25	Parcels Inc. (Inv. No. Document Duplication/D		5/25	719.30
02/28/25	Parcels Inc Deliver	y & Copy Serv	Lce	62.00
	Total disbursements			\$1,658.70
BILLING S	UMMARY			
	Trainer, Jr., Philip	4.10 hrs	960.00/hr	\$3,936.00
	Taylor, Gregory A.		795.00/hr	\$29,574.00
	DeBaecke, Michael D.		760.00 /hr	\$61,940.00
	Kosloske, Destiny A.		420.00 /hr 345.00 /hr	\$1,176.00 \$2,829.00
	Jones, Kristy M Wilford, Kimya M.		310.00 /hr	\$589.00
	TOTAL FEES	135.70 hrs		\$100,044.00
	TOTAL FEES TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	135.70 hrs		
				\$1,658.70
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$100,044.00 \$1,658.70 \$101,702.70 \$8,188.00

PT Trainer, Jr., Philip

4.10 hrs 960/hr \$3,936.00

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Bill	number WRTELL 86582		-	PAGE 14
GAT	Taylor, Gregory A.	37.20 hrs	795/hr	\$29,574.00
MDD	DeBaecke, Michael D.	81.50 hrs	760/hr	\$61,940.00
DAK	Kosloske, Destiny A.	2.80 hrs	420/hr	\$1,176.00
KMJ	Jones, Kristy M	8.20 hrs	345/hr	\$2,829.00
KMS	Wilford, Kimya M.	1.90 hrs	310/hr	\$589.00
			TOTAL	\$100,044.00
RECAP 02	BY TASK Asset Disposition	1.10	hours	\$836.00
07	Case Administration	17.20	hours	\$11,149.00
08	Claims Admin. and Objections	0.50	hours	\$380.00
11	Employment and Fee Apps	4.90	hours	\$3,143.00
17	Plan and Disclosure Statement	27.50	hours	\$20,900.00
23	Investigation	84.50	hours	\$63,636.00
DEGLE	DV EVDENCE CODE			
KECAP	BY EXPENSE CODE			

CA

PC

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Costs Advanced

PCR Pacer Service - Court On-Line

Parcels Inc. - Delivery Servi

Photocopies

88.80

6661.00

122.50

781.30

\$88.80

\$666.10

\$122.50 \$781.30